

February 6, 2003

ENT-8: FO:TCF:SE:TA AL

TO : Directors, Field Operations

FROM : Executive Director, Trade Compliance and Facilitation
Office of Field Operations

SUBJECT: Effects of Presidential Proclamation 7637 on the
Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and the
Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS)

Presidential Proclamation 7637, dated January 10, 2003, published in the Federal Register on January 14, 2003 (68 FR 1951-1954), modifies the HTS and the list of beneficiary developing countries eligible for preferential tariff treatment under the GSP program.

Proclamation 7637 designates Afghanistan as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP, and amends General Note 4(a) to the HTS by inserting in alphabetical sequence in the list of independent beneficiary countries "Afghanistan." This modification is effective with respect to Afghanistan products entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption, on or after January 29, 2003.

In addition, Proclamation 7637 designates Afghanistan as a "least-developed beneficiary developing country" and modifies General Note 4(b)(i) to the HTS by inserting in alphabetical order "Afghanistan." This modification is effective with respect to Afghanistan products entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption, on or after March 16, 2003.

The proclamation further modifies the HTS in the following manner:

(A) Modifications to General Note 4 of the HTS:

- (1) Effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption, on or after February 13, 2003. GN 4(d) is modified by adding in numerical sequence "0811.20.20 Chile".

(B) Effective with respect to products classifiable under HTS subheading 0811.20.20 entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption, on or after February 13, 2003, the Rates of Duty 1–Special subcolumn is modified by deleting the symbol “A” and inserting an “A*” in lieu thereof.

(C) Below are modifications to HTS subheading 8111.00. Specifically, HTS subheading 8111.00.45 is removed and replaced with HTS subheadings 8111.00.47 and 8111.00.49. Furthermore, duty-free treatment is provided to HTS subheading 8111.00.47 when imported from any sub-Saharan African (SSA) country. These changes are effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption, on or after January 29, 2003.

Heading/ Subheading	Article Description			Rates of Duty		
				Column 1		Column 2
				General	Special	
8111.00	Manganese and articles thereof, including waste and scrap					
8111.00.30		Waste and Scrap				
		Other				
		Unwrought Manganese				
8111.00.47			Flake Containing at least 99.5 percent by weight of manganese	14%	Free (A+, CA, D, E, IL, J, MX) 5.6% (JO)	20%
8111.00.49			Other	14%	Free (A+, CA, E, IL, J, MX) 5.6% (JO)	20%

The Automated Commercial System has been updated to allow for the processing of entry summaries through the Automated Broker Interface.

Importers or their agents may avail themselves of all available post-entry procedures, with the exception of NAFTA 520(d) claims, to receive a refund of duties for eligible Afghanistan non-textile articles and goods under HTS subheadings 8111.00.47 imported from SSA beneficiary countries entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption, on or after January 29, 2003.

The aforementioned modifications will be reflected in the next edition of the HTS published by the U.S. International Trade Commission. Until the next printed edition is released, please ensure that the appropriate staff makes notations of the changes to their files.

Copies of this memorandum should be made available to Port Directors; Assistant Port Directors, Trade; Import and Entry Specialists; Inspectors; brokers; importers and other interested parties.

Questions concerning this notice from the importing community should be referred to their local Customs port. The Customs port of entry may refer GSP related questions to Ms. Arlene Lugo, Trade Agreements Branch, at (202) 927-4183, or via cc:Mail. Inquiries regarding modifications to the HTS should be directed to Ms. Yvonne Tomenga, Other Government Agency Branch, at (202) 927-0370, or via cc:Mail.

/s/

Elizabeth G. Durant

cc: Director, Client Representatives
Director, National Commodity Specialist Division
Chief, Account Management